



United States Department of Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

April 29, 2019

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Office of the Chief
Information Officer

Hart Wood
American Oversight
1030 15th St. NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

Re: Interim Release No. 1 for FOIA Request No. 2019-DA-00810-F

Dear Mr. Wood:

This letter is the first interim release by the Departmental FOIA Office (DFO) in response to the above-referenced FOIA request seeking:

All email communications and associated attachments sent or received by any political appointee in the offices identified below, including emails on which any custodian is copied (cc'd) or blind copied (bcc'd). Responsive records are limited to those including any of the following terms:

- IPCC
- "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change"
- "United Nations report"
- UN
- "1.5 C"
- "1.5 degrees"
- "global warming"
- "climate change"

USDA may limit its search to the following offices:

- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics
- Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Please provide all responsive records from September 15, 2018, through October 31, 2018.

Your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) telecommunications provider Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC performs network services for the OCIO to include

electronic messaging operations, electronic calendars, blackberry, mobile device management (MDM), file and print, remote access, voice, network, service desk, and other application services. The CEC located a few hundred pages of potentially responsive records. Thirty (30) of those pages are being provided with this interim response.

The DFO has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) (FOIA Exemption 5), and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (FOIA Exemption 6). Below is an explanation of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 5

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” Among the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA’s deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter. The information withheld includes discussions between agency staff regarding policy decisions. By withholding this information, the DFO is protecting the integrity of the agency’s decision-making process and ensuring no inhibition of free and frank exchange between agency personnel. The DFO is also ensuring against the premature disclosure of proposed policy, which if released, could cause confusion to the public regarding the agency’s policy positions.

FOIA Exemption 6

FOIA Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the “personal privacy” exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” Application of the exemption involves balancing the public’s interest in disclosure against individuals’ privacy interests. The information withheld includes the cellular phone numbers of private individuals, direct office numbers, and certain email addresses. This information falls under the category of “similar files” because it is information in which individuals have a substantial privacy interest. Moreover, releasing the information could subject these individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications.

Since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by the disclosure of this information, FOIA Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold these items from release. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information’s release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

Hart Wood
FOIA Case No. 2019-DA-00810-F

Please remember this is only an interim response. You will be provided appeal rights upon completion of our review and processing of those records. If you have any questions, please contact USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Enclosures: Responsive Records (30 pages)

2019-DA-00810-F_0

From: [Steve Kopperud](#)
To: raymond.starling@osec.usda.gov
Subject: FW: "Nature" Study on Livestock Production/Climate Change
Date: Thursday, October 11, 2018 11:06:39 AM
Attachments: [Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Device.pdf](#) Available online: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0594-0>
Importance: High

I'm sure you saw the WaPo article on how eating meat/raising livestock has doomed the planet...attached is the actual sketchy study upon which that report is based...

Steve Kopperud
Principal
SLK Strategies
1100 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

(b) (6) @slkstrategies.com

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Xerox <Xerox@fbresearch.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Steve Kopperud (b) (6) @slkstrategies.com>
Subject: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Device

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Multifunction Device.

Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

Multifunction Device Location:
Device Name: xerox7845

For more information on Xerox products and solutions, please visit <http://www.xerox.com>

From: [Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lockwood, Amanda - OSEC](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 7:36:02 AM
Attachments: [091618 Perdue Letter Final.doc](#)
[091218 Sustaining the FS Report.pdf](#) Available online: <https://www.nafsr.org/index.php>

Please print attachment.

From: "NAFSR 2000" (b) (6) >
Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 10:54:06 PM
To: "Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Jim.Hubbard@osec.usda.gov>

Campbell, attached is a letter and report from NAFSR in response to our meeting with Secretary Perdue and Deputy Secretary Censky (and you) on April 30. We are also mailing a hard copy of the letter and report.

Please make sure the Secretary receives a copy of the letter. Some of the topics we cover may come up in our meeting with Secretary Perdue in Asheville on September 24.

We are also sending copies to Under Secretary Hubbard and Chief Christiansen.

Thank you for your help and if you have any questions, give us a call.

Johnny Hodges
Secretary

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

email - (b) (6)

phone - (b) (6)

website - www.nafsr.org

mail - NAFSR
P.O. Box 273362
Ft. Collins, CO 80527



www.nafsr.org.

P.O. Box 273362
Ft. Collins, CO 80527

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September 16, 2018

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The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees sincerely appreciates your desire to work with our organization to enhance rural prosperity and healthy environments through active land management. Per our discussions, NAFSR work teams have finalized our input and developed recommendations regarding agency culture, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, Forest Service Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform, and Forest Service environmental analysis and decision-making (EADM) processes. These documents are being, or have been, submitted to the appropriate agency either informally or through formal public involvement processes, and are being compiled into a single comprehensive report that is available to you and your staff upon request.

This letter summarizes the key concepts presented in those materials and recommends actions that you, in your capacity as Secretary of Agriculture, will likely need to take to overcome the institutional inertia and resistance that often thwart meaningful reform efforts. Based on our collective agency experience, we respectfully offer the following recommendations.

Agency Culture – Gifford Pinchot had a very specific vision for the management of the nation's forests: the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time. The cornerstone of the organization was a decentralized corps of field-based rangers who were expected to know the land and the people, and to use that knowledge to make decisions consistent with the Forest Service mission.

Due to a variety of factors—extended periods of low morale, endless process, declining budgets, lack of legislative support, push-back against public lands, personnel issues, and, most significantly, the decline in workforce capacity—the culture of the agency has been adversely affected. We cannot overstate the corrosive effects of losing, by some accounts, half of the non-fire workforce over the last 15 years. This is a very complex problem many years in the making; it will take many more years to right-the-course and restore the agency's status as one of the best agencies in government for which to work.

We are pleased that corrective actions are already in progress: The Department and the Forest Service have initiated thoughtful efforts to reform environmental analysis and decision-making processes with the goal of increasing efficiency and accelerating restoration efforts. This is a great place to begin the process of changing agency culture. We strongly encourage you to guide and support those administrative reforms that streamline analysis and restore local decision making. It will be important for you to support the Chief as she works to finalize and implement meaningful change.

Further, it is imperative to restore agency employees' connections to the land they manage and communities they serve. Years of consolidating units and shuttering offices has taken a real toll on the local relationships that once made the Forest Service great. We call upon you to work with the Chief to find alternatives to future consolidations, and to even reverse the trend.

In addition to process reform, you may want to consider a well-orchestrated "Back to our Roots" campaign that emphasizes the expectation employees work to improve the health, diversity, resilience, and productivity of national forests and grasslands; be a good neighbor; and create jobs and economic benefits for the American people. This campaign must have a compelling message and delivery system. It would be most effective if initiated through a series of in-person discussions between you, the Chief, and the National Leadership Council. From there, leadership at all levels must get behind the effort if it is to facilitate meaningful change.

Please understand that we are not asking for a return to Gifford Pinchot's agency, but for a renewed appreciation of, and rededication to, the core values that have guided the agency for over a century. We believe this effort is necessary to restore the Forest Service's status as one of the most successful agencies in government.

Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act Regulations -

We strongly urge you to engage with the Administration and decision-makers at CEQ to ensure the ongoing effort to revise NEPA regulations and procedures results in real reform that:

- 1) Includes guidance, based on the 1969 Act, as to what constitutes a "major federal action." The law was intended to apply to "major significant actions."
- 2) Adopts a determination of NEPA adequacy which allows prior NEPA to be used for similar projects with effects/impacts. Allow analysis from past projects to be used in similar environmental reviews.
- 3) Reduces the scope of alternatives that must be formally evaluated. Allow constructive collaborative discussions to narrow the range of options analyzed.
- 4) Clarifies which decisions may be addressed through categorical exclusions. Provide sufficient flexibility for agencies to determine whether a category of activity does not have a significant effect on the human environment.
- 5) Develops an integrated decision-making model. Integrate regulatory processes into the planning process and decision points.

NAFSR believes these five changes to NEPA regulations would be the most effective in improving agency efficiency (for more detailed explanations, consult our full report). We respectfully ask that you stay involved in CEQ's reform effort and work with the Administration and CEQ to ensure these reforms are among those adopted, and that the reforms are fully implemented.

Endangered Species Act Reform – It is critical that the Forest Service take bold steps to reform ESA processes, and that those reforms apply to informal, as well as formal, consultation. After reviewing the Endangered Species Act Task Force Report (May 2, 2018) our organization submitted a comment letter to Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen. The letter highlighted three major suggestions:

- 1) Increase long-term Forest Service authorities. Specifically, NAFSR believes it should be the agency's top priority to obtain authority for agency biologists to make "may affect" and "not likely to adversely affect" determinations.
- 2) Focus on process and program management actions. Items 5 (develop guidance and templates for biological assessments), 6 (increase use of programmatic assessments), and 7 (clarify relationship between ESA effects determinations and "significance" in the context of NEPA) have the potential to save significant time.
- 3) Develop and monitor reasonable consultation goals and deadlines for various situations and projects.

We respectfully request that you support these recommendations. Recognizing that ESA processes are not totally driven by the Forest Service, it will also be critical for you to provide leadership with the Departments of Commerce and Interior to forge agreements necessary to fully implement identified ESA reforms. Specifically, Department-level leadership need to be convened to discuss expanding the authority of Forest Service biologists to make effects determinations. There also needs to be a serious dialogue about risk management. Current processes are largely risk averse, focusing on the short-term impacts of land management activities and largely ignoring potential long-term benefits. We believe it is imperative for regulatory agencies to consider short- and long-term effects of management action and inaction when evaluating projects. Doing so is likely to require the establishment of special regulations under Section 4(d) of the Act.

Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) – The Forest Service is to be commended for initiating a robust national dialogue about improving the efficiency of environmental analysis and decision making. NAFSR was very involved in roundtable discussions and has provided input to the agency. Key suggestions included:

- 1) Make better and consistent use of existing authorities and policies (Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), Farm Bill, categorical exclusions, emergency alternative arrangements, stewardship contracting, and landscape-level NEPA).
- 2) Develop alternatives to litigation.
- 3) Modify existing regulations to decrease ambiguity and improve efficiency. Encourage an adaptive management approach to decision making.
- 4) Complete EADM reform, incorporating the massive body of work completed by Regions. Consolidate reforms into a package, implement and institutionalize. Rebuild agency capacity.

The agency is on the precipice of unprecedented reform. Successfully completing and implementing the intertwined CEQ, EADM and ESA reforms is absolutely critical to make significant changes in agency processes and culture. A reversal in personnel trends which returns non-fire personnel to the field in a decentralized manner is also crucial to the agency's success. It will take your personal involvement to see these initiatives through to a timely completion, and then to hold all levels of the agency accountable for their implementation.

The Administration, Department and Forest Service are to be commended for tackling very difficult land management issues. Improving agency processes and culture will take time, but it will happen with your support, involvement and oversight. Please know NAFSR is supporting you every step of the way as we seek to sustain the Forest Service mission while adapting to today's and tomorrow's challenges. Please let us know if you desire further discussion or a copy of our report.

Sincerely,

James L. Caswell

James L. Caswell, Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

From: [Gloria Story Dittus](#)
To: stephen.censky@osec.usda.gov
Subject: [CAUTION: Suspicious Link]The Washington DC 100: The Nuclear Energy Edition
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 7:34:17 AM

PROCEED WITH CAUTION: This message triggered warnings of **potentially** malicious web content. Evaluate this email by considering whether you are expecting the message, along with inspection for suspicious links.
Questions: Spam.Abuse@wdc.usda.gov

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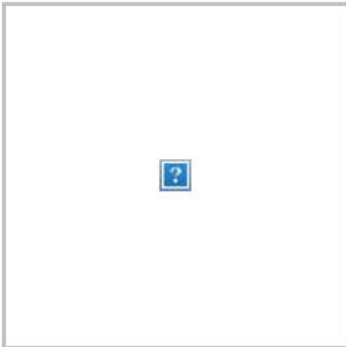


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ENERGY

Nuclear energy is key



Gloria Story Dittus is the chairman of Story Partners.

Sept. 24 to Sept. 28 is National Clean Energy Week, a time to celebrate America's energy sector by embracing clean and renewable power. That is why this edition offers a spotlight on nuclear energy

ENERGY

Power America's future



GAIN provides the nuclear energy industry with access to the technical, regulatory and financial support necessary to move new or advanced nuclear reactor technologies toward commercialization, as well as ensuring the continued safe, reliable and economic operation of the existing nuclear reactor fleet.

The unconventional and

ENERGY

Public health benefits of nuclear energy



C2ES is an environmental nonprofit organization. It is the successor to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

Operating nuclear power plants emit no carbon dioxide or other air pollutants, which can lead to health issues and

– an important ingredient for a safe and responsible future.

Nuclear energy is not only part of the climate change solution. It is also vital for our military; without it, we put our national security at risk. We must leverage scientific research, policy and public-private partnerships to stay at the forefront of energy technology. Read on to learn why supporting innovation in nuclear energy is key.

[– Gloria Story Dittus, Story Partners](#)



ENERGY

Renewing America's nuclear leadership will strengthen national security



Sen. Lisa Murkowski represents the state of Alaska in the U.S. Senate.

In the 1950s, America became the global leader in commercial nuclear energy, inventing breakthrough technology and setting international standards for safety, security and

energetic spirit that created the commercial nuclear energy industry will again transform our country. New, smaller and more efficient reactors are being developed to combat climate change and meet the energy demand.

Did you know nuclear energy generates nearly 60 percent of this nation's carbon-free electricity? It's also essential to the economy. It creates thousands of high-paying jobs in the U.S. and helps fund schools, fire and police protection, roads, parks, zoos and other amenities.

There's a lot at stake, but the rewards are high. And the time is now to power America's future.

[– Rita Baranwal, Director, Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear \(GAIN\) initiative](#)



ENERGY

Supporting nuclear power is supporting national security



environmental damage. Nuclear power is the largest source of zero-emission electricity in America.

The U.S. nuclear fleet avoids the annual emission of at least 400 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is the major greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.

Zero-emission nuclear and renewable electricity help avoid dangerous emissions (e.g., sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and particulate matter) from fossil fuel generation, which can lead to respiratory, heart and lung issues, cancers and acid rain.

[– Doug Vine, Senior Energy Fellow, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#)



ENERGY

U.S. nuclear power is a strategic asset



The Center for International Trade & Security promotes interdisciplinary solutions to contemporary security issues through a variety of research, training and outreach programs.

nonproliferation. Over the years, however, we've slowly but surely ceded that position to other nations, including some who could put world security interests at risk.

I've led a bipartisan group in the Senate to introduce the [Nuclear Energy Leadership Act](#). It consists of smart and timely policies that will break down barriers the market cannot solve, promote advanced reactor concepts and restore America as the foremost champion and guide for this clean, safe and reliable energy source.

– [Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#)



ENERGY

Advancing nuclear innovation



Sen. Mike Crapo represents the state of Idaho in the U.S. Senate.

Reliable, efficient and emission-free – nuclear energy will continue to be a critical component of our nation's baseload power

Rep. Daniel Kinzinger is the U.S. Representative for Illinois' 16th Congressional District.

Nuclear power is critical to America's energy independence. A robust nuclear fleet allows us a voice in security and nonproliferation discussions, while providing alternatives for global allies who want to invest in clean, reliable power – without ties to Russia or China.

That's why my bill is so important. The NUKE Act reduces regulatory burdens on existing plants, while maintaining our gold safety standards to help them stay competitive at home and abroad.

America's nuclear plants, including the four in my district, provide clean energy and good jobs and cement our global leadership in nuclear power today and for future generations.

– [Rep. Adam Kinzinger, House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)



ENERGY

Nuclear energy's contribution to our national security

In the 20th century, America strategically committed itself to developing the world's most advanced nuclear power enterprise. The objectives were to provide reliable, zero-emission electricity and position the U.S. as the nuclear technology leader.

However, America's leadership is being challenged as Russia and China, with a combined 89 reactors under construction and planned, strategically expand their programs through state-owned enterprises while we have one privately owned project underway at Plant Vogtle.

This has national security implications and calls for a public-private partnership centered on nuclear power as a strategic asset, not merely a commodity transaction.

– [David Gattie, Associate Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering, and Resident Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia](#)



ENERGY

Protecting our national security interests

needs. Advanced nuclear technology tested at Idaho National Laboratory and around the country offers greater promise with increased efficiency, security and renewability, yet faces obstacles to reaching market scalability.

I am proud to lead, with Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act and serve as honorary co-chairs of the Atlantic Council's Task Force on U.S. Nuclear Energy Leadership.

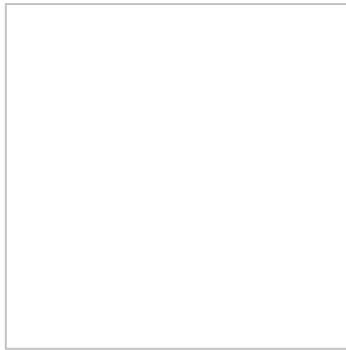
Work must continue to lift barriers to American innovation and leadership in nuclear energy research and development.

[– Sen. Mike Crapo, Member, Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure](#)



ENERGY

Nuclear: The ever-changing global clean energy workhorse



The American Security Project is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization based in Washington, D.C.

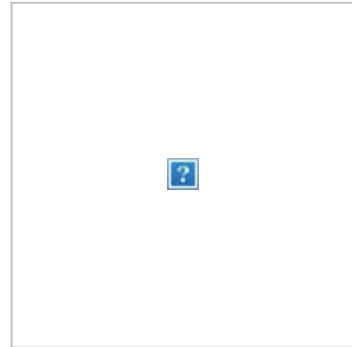
Our country, thanks to longtime Department of Defense leadership, led the development of nuclear power. Today, we are losing our leadership. Of the 50 nuclear reactors being built in the world, [only one](#) is in America. The leading exporters are China and Russia, who use nuclear power as a tool to tie countries to them.

We must lead in design of tomorrow's nuclear plants, including small modular reactors, next generation designs and even fusion power. We need a partnership between science, government, and business to ensure that the U.S. regains its edge in clean, safe and secure nuclear power.

[– Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC \(Ret.\), Chief Executive Officer, American Security Project \(ASP\)](#)



ENERGY



The Bipartisan Policy Center is a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that combines the best ideas from both parties to promote opportunity for all Americans.

Continued American leadership in global nuclear security matters is central to protecting our national security interests. In particular, U.S. leadership in nuclear technology and operations can strengthen our influence with respect to other countries' nuclear programs and the evolution of the international nonproliferation regime, while also supporting competitiveness in a major export market.

Nuclear power technologies are distinct from other potential exports in energy or in sectors where America's competitive advantage may also be declining. Because of the potential link between commercial technology and weapons development, nuclear power is linked to national security concerns, including the threat of proliferation.

[Continue Reading...](#)



Competitive nuclear energy industry is essential to national security

Nuclear power is finally beginning to be sufficiently recognized as the workhorse of the global clean energy sector. But it won't look like it does now if it is going to achieve its full potential in anchoring a global clean energy system.

The virtues of the current nuclear fleet – namely its carbon-free power and 24/7 reliability – must be coupled with the ever-changing demands of our global energy industry. That includes new technologies that make it smaller and highly scalable for use in cities and remote areas and allow for high-temperature use to decarbonize heavy industrial processes.

– [Rich Powell, Executive Director, ClearPath](#)



ENERGY

A strong domestic nuclear program



John Warner was Chairman or ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for 17 years. He is the former Secretary of the Navy (1969-1974).

Sens. Murkowski and Booker and seven bipartisan colleagues have introduced the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act, designed to help the U.S. resume its nuclear energy technology leadership role. Congress must recognize our leadership position in nuclear energy is being replaced by Russia and China, weakening our energy security, economic competitiveness and national security.

Russia has announced \$133B in new global reactor orders. Without American leadership, our geopolitical influence and non-proliferation voice is weakened. The DOD could lose its lead on technological innovation and safety research, a requirement for



– [Jason Grumet, President,](#)

[Bipartisan Policy Center](#)



ENERGY

If you care about climate, you should care about nuclear



Third Way is a national think tank that champions modern center-left ideas.

We're already seeing the damages caused by our changing climate. While renewables are growing at a rapid pace, we need faster transitions to clean energy to avoid climate's worst impacts.

Research shows we'll eliminate emissions faster and more cost-effectively with



NEI is a nuclear industry trade association in the United States of America, based in Washington, D.C.

A strong U.S. nuclear energy industry is fundamental to America's national security. Our 98 nuclear plants are among the most robust elements of U.S. critical infrastructure. Nuclear energy also is by far our nation's largest source (56%) of emission-free generation – important because the national security community identifies climate change as a security risk.

Competitiveness internationally also is inextricably linked to a strong domestic nuclear program. Today, there are 56 reactors under construction in the world largely driven by China and Russia. The U.S. needs a strong domestic industry and supply chain to maintain our leadership internationally.

[– Neal M. Cohen,](#)
[Senior Vice President,](#)
[External Affairs,](#)
[Nuclear Energy Institute](#)



nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers manned by our courageous sailors.

[– John W. Warner,](#)
[former five-term U.S. Senator](#)
[\(R-VA\).](#)
[Amy C. Roma,](#)
[co-author “Back from the](#)
[Brink,](#)
[A Threatened Nuclear Energy](#)
[Industry Compromises](#)
[National Security”](#)



ENERGY

Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act



Rep. William Flores represents Texas' 17th Congressional District.

Nuclear power is an efficient and reliable source of zero-emission energy. It generates a meaningful portion of our country's “always-on, baseload” electricity used in our homes and businesses.

American innovators are currently working on the next generation of nuclear reactors to keep our country at the forefront of this important, clean energy source. To

a broader set of carbon-free solutions in addition to wind and solar, including carbon capture and nuclear energy.

We must support policies to maintain today's nuclear reactors that produce 60% of America's carbon-free power and move forward with dozens of carbon capture and advanced nuclear projects underway in North America that could deliver tomorrow's valuable new solutions.

[– Josh Freed,](#)
[Vice President,](#)
[Clean Energy Program,](#)
[Third Way](#)



ENERGY

Energy security is national security



Rep. Will Hurd represents Texas' 23rd congressional district.

As a member of the House Committees on Intelligence and Homeland Security, and as a former CIA officer, I understand the critical role that the U.S. nuclear energy

power future generations of nuclear reactors, we must develop the next generation of nuclear fuels.

The Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act establishes a public-private solution to develop, manufacture and transport those next generation fuels to ensure that we can power tomorrow's advanced reactors.

– [Rep. Bill Flores,](#)
[House Committee on Energy](#)
[and Commerce](#)



industry plays in enabling our country to meet its national security objectives. Yet, the Center for Strategic & Industry Studies (CSIS) has [reported](#) that the nuclear industry is struggling to survive.

Our country's positioning in the dangerous geopolitical environment is reliant on nuclear energy. Countries across the globe look to the U.S. as a leader in nuclear energy, ultimately diminishing the influence of adversarial countries such as Iran and Russia.

[Continue Reading ...](#)



– [Rep. William Ballard Hurd,](#)
[Member,](#)

[House Committees on](#)
[Intelligence and Homeland](#)
[Security](#)



The Washington DC 100



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From: [Partnership for the 21CSC](#)
To: Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov
Subject: 21CSC Bulletin: Accepting Nominations for 21CSC Champion of the Year Award
Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 12:23:44 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)

Happy Halloween!



Ben Baldwin, National Park Service - Intermountain Region, receives a 2018 Champion of the Year Award. Nominations now being accepted for [2019 21CSC Champion of the Year Award](#). (Ben is pictured with Amy Sovocool, Conservation Legacy, and Mary Ellen Sprenkel, The Corps Network)

Accepting Nominations for 21CSC Champion of the Year Award

Nominations due Nov. 16, 2018.
Award to be presented in Washington, DC in February.

Download Nomination Form

The Partnership for the 21CSC (P-21CSC) is accepting nominations for the [21CSC Champion of the Year Award](#). The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, November 16, 2018**. The 2019 Award will be presented in Washington, DC during the annual Partnership for the 21CSC Convening (part of [The Corps Network 2019 National Conference](#), February 10 - 13).

The success of the 21CSC depends on the support of dedicated partners. The 21CSC Champion of the Year Award recognizes individuals from the various agencies and non-profit organizations with which 21CSC organizations partner.

The Partnership for the 21CSC looks forward to celebrating those who believe in the vision of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps initiative and help make our work possible!

KEY INFORMATION:

Deadline to submit nominations: Friday, November 16, 2018

Who can submit nominations? Anyone

Examples of appropriate individuals to nominate:

- Employees of the various federal agencies with which Corps Partner, including agencies within the Department of the Interior or Department of Agriculture [NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS, BOI, USGS, BOR, etc.], Army Corps of Engineers, DOT, NOAA, etc.
- Employees of conservation-related national nonprofits with whom Corps partner.
- Employees of state or local park/resource management agencies and organizations.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** This award is NOT for people who work at a [21CSC organization](#).

How do I submit a nomination?

Please send completed nomination forms to Grettie vonVorys-Norton at The Corps Network, gvonvorys-norton@corpsnetwork.org.

What if I have questions?

Please contact Grettie (listed above) or Hannah Traverse, htraverse@corpsnetwork.org.



Nov. 16, 2018

Deadline to [submit nominations](#) for
21CSC Champion of the Year
Award

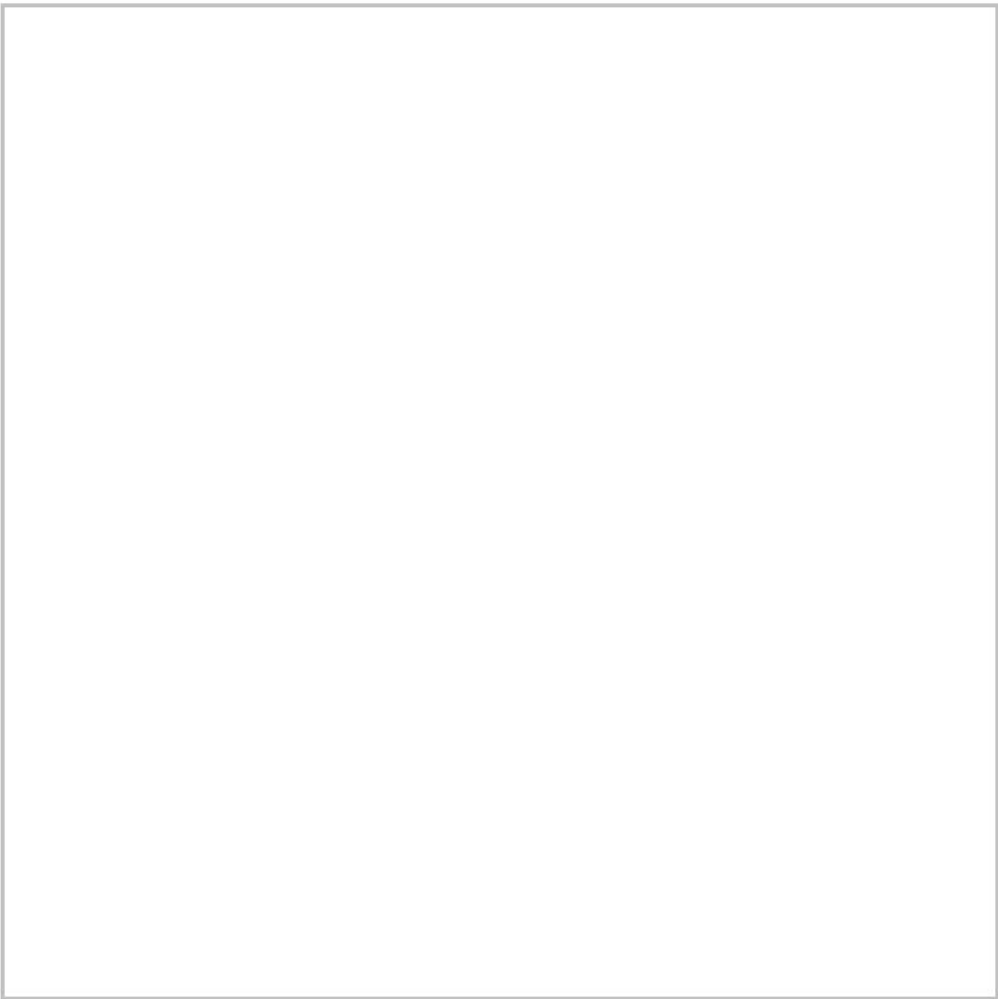
Feb. 10 – 13, 2019

[Resilience: The Corps Network 2019](#)

[National Conference](#) (to include
annual Partnership for the 21CSC
Meeting on afternoon of Monday,
Feb. 11. More details to come.)



Several 21CSC member organizations
recently deployed to Florida, North Carolina
and South Carolina to assist in the cleanup
efforts following Hurricanes Michael and
Florence (Pictured clockwise from top left:
[Washington Conservation Corps](#),
[Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa](#),
[Southeast Conservation Corps](#), [Montana
Conservation Corps](#))



*The Partnership for the 21CSC extends a warm welcome to
the following new member organizations of the 21CSC.*

- [Child and Family Services of NW Michigan
– YouthWork Conservation Corps](#)
(Traverse City, MI)
- [Lake County Resources Initiative](#)
(Lakeview, OR)
- [Watershed Committee of the Ozarks](#)
(Springfield, MO)



21CSC Act Passes in Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

A version of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, or 21CSC Act ([S.1403](#)), [passed by voice vote October 2](#) in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with bipartisan support. Originally introduced by the late Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), the bill can now move forward for consideration by the full Senate. The P-21CSC urges the full Senate to pass the 21CSC Act in honor of Sen. McCain, a lifelong advocate of military, national, and public service. As the bill progresses, the P-21CSC encourages lawmakers to consider a Sense of Congress within the bill that honors the late Senator's legacy and renames the bill appropriately. Additionally, the P-21CSC supports efforts to reconcile the Senate and House versions of the bill. We urge that the final bill include provisions from the original version that would expand national service and AmeriCorps opportunities for young adults and veterans, and enable Corps to better address unmet community and national needs. In June of this year, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed the full 21CSC Act ([H.R.2987](#)) with unanimous bipartisan support. [Learn more](#)

Partnership for the 21CSC (P-21CSC) Leadership Meeting

The leadership of the [P-21CSC](#) convened a small group of our closest federal partners in September to continue our planning and coordination around how to expand opportunities for conservation service. Federal partners represented at the event included the National Park

Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Also represented was the National Park Foundation. It was clear from the meeting that the public-private-partnership model of the 21CSC continues to resonate with federal partners and is relevant in addressing some of the emerging priorities of the new Administration. There were challenges identified that our collaborative partnership model is well-suited to work through in the coming years; all parties agreed to continue these meetings in order to align service opportunities to best meet ongoing land management priorities. Stay tuned for more from the Partnership regarding our areas of focus, as well as for information about the annual in-person meeting of the full Partnership for the 21CSC in Washington, DC in February.

Updates Re: DOI Recreation Committee

[Established in November 2017](#), the Committee is tasked with providing the Secretary of the Interior with recommendations for (1) policies and programs that expand and improve visitor infrastructure through public-private partnerships; (2) implementing sustainable operations; (3) improving interpretation using technology; and (4) creating better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters. The Partnership for the 21CSC has been actively engaged with the Committee where possible, including attending the inaugural meeting, where we had the opportunity to promote Corps and speak about expanding our work. To help advocate for the 21CSC, The Corps Network, a co-chair of the P-21CSC, also submitted a nomination letter to join the Subcommittee on Partnerships, Public Access & Infrastructure.

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service

[The National Commission](#) on Military, National, and Public Service was created by Congress to review the military selective service process and consider ways to increase participation by all Americans in military, national, and public service. Earl Bowman, 21CSC Corpsmember, [spoke at the official launch](#) of the commission in January. Since then, the P-21CSC has been actively educating the Commission about the rich history of Conservation Corps; the project and personal benefits of Corps service; and the concept of 21CSC as a scalable solution to increase opportunities for all Americans to serve.

US Forest 21CSC Program Review

The Forest Service conducted a review to assess the experiences of 21CSC member organizations and partners in working with the Forest Service. They examined the successes, challenges, and opportunities that have arisen in the first years of the 21CSC. To assist in the process, staff from The Corps Network (co-chair of the Partnership for the 21CSC) and USFS staff convened an in-person discussion earlier this year. In addition, The Corps Network conducted its own survey to help generate feedback, and submitted a formal comment letter on behalf of the network detailing challenges/barriers and suggested improvements.



USFWS to fill 120 biology and natural resource management positions

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce jobs for over 120 permanent biology and natural resource management positions starting in January. The announcement linked below describes the types of jobs available and the requirements for each position. It also indicates where the jobs will be filled. Note that the specifics for each job in each location will be described in USAJobs.gov.

USFWS is interested in creating a targeted, diverse pool of candidates for this round of hiring.

[Learn more](#)



Click the links below for articles and other content featuring
21CSC member organizations and Corpsmembers.

- **Getting Young People Into Conservation**

Ben Thomas, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Executive Director, and
Aaron Archibeque, Refuge Chief, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
[Albuquerque Journal](#)

What if our teenagers wanted to be park rangers instead of basketball players? Wildlife biologists instead of Hollywood stars? What does it take to get today's kids interested in conservation? -- [Read more](#)

- **BLM, Non-profits Complete Second Stewardship Project in Red Desert**
[SweetwaterNOW](#)

For the second year in a row, the Bureau of Land Management, the Wyoming Conservation Corps and the Wyoming Wilderness Association partnered to conserve important areas in the Red Desert. This summer, the WCC crew improved trails, reclaimed roads and repaired fences in the Northern Red Desert, an area managed by the BLM's Rock Springs Field Office. -- [Read more](#)

- **First Line of Defense: As vulnerable communities prepare for the destructive effects of climate change, shoring up nature is a critical part of the plans**

Ginger Strand

[The Nature Conservancy Magazine](#)

The aluminum work boat leaves the Pascagoula River and heads into the Mississippi Sound loaded with 12 large boxes of dune grass, but it's five energetic young adults who make the craft feel almost too small. As the coastline recedes from view, shouts and laughter ride the warm spring breeze, and good-natured trash talk circulates with the bottle of sunscreen. -- [Read more](#) (article features [GulfCorps](#) program)

- **Teenagers Pour Sweat, Love Into Mount Rainier's Trails**

Alex Brown

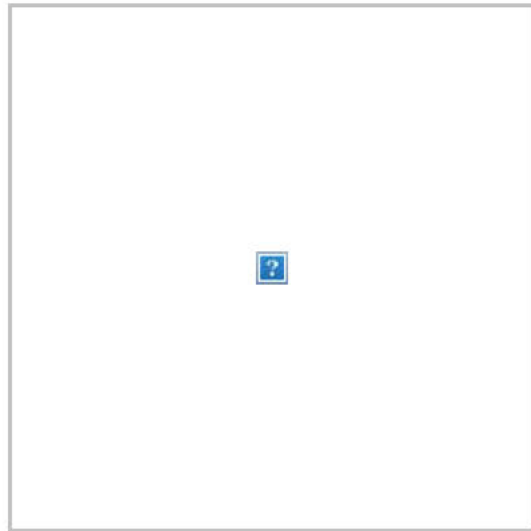
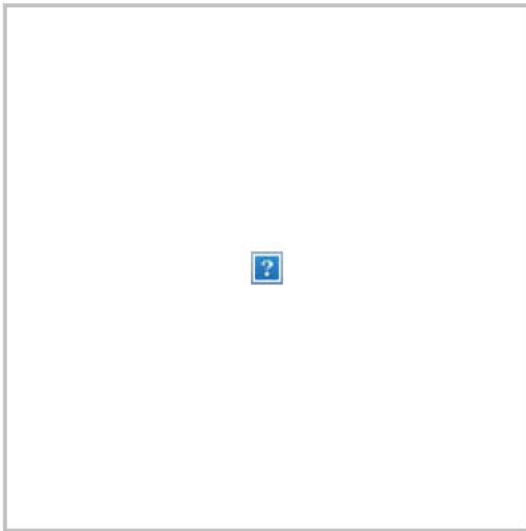
[The Daily Chronicle](#)

A five-minute hike into Mount Rainier's Lakes Trail, a group of teenagers is sprawled in the dirt, eating sandwiches and wild huckleberries. They loudly trade jokes and stories, enjoying a lunch break in the mountain sunshine while their digging tools — and an afternoon of work — wait just around the corner. A few miles away, on the Wonderland Trail, another cluster of workers quietly works rocks into place. This crew has no shortage of its own teenage banter, but it's communicated in the deft movement of flashing fingers — American Sign Language occasionally punctuated by audible laughter. -- [Read more](#) (article features [Northwest Youth Corps](#), including their ASL Crews)

Resource Assistant Program - Photos from the Field

The [Resource Assistants Program](#) (RAP) is a rigorous, immersive, paid internship for individuals interested in careers with the U.S. Forest Service. Several member organizations of the 21CSC work with the U.S. Forest Service to recruit Resource Assistants. This partnership model allows the U.S. Forest Service to reach a diverse pool of applicants across the country. Below, find photos of RAs in the field.





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News from the Partnership for the 21CSC.

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1275 K Street, NW
Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20005

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From: [Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC](#)
To: [Johansson, Robert - OCE](#); [Hohenstein, William - OCE](#); [Meyer, Seth - OCE](#)
Subject: FW: (b) (5) Deliberative
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 5:34:15 PM
Attachments: (b) (5) Deliberative pdf
All attachments withheld: (b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

Hey guys,

(b) (5) Deliberative

Thoughts?

Thanks,

Brooke

From: BECK, MARRITTA <MARRITTA.BECK@oig.usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 5:27 PM
To: Jones, Diem-Linh - OBPA, Washington, DC <Diem-Linh.Jones@obpa.usda.gov>; Buckner, Charlene - OGC <CHARLENE.BUCKNER@OGC.USDA.GOV>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <Nicole.Pollard@obpa.usda.gov>; Zehren, Chris - OBPA, Washington, DC <Chris.Zehren@obpa.usda.gov>; Nelson, Christopher - OBPA <chris.nelson@obpa.usda.gov>; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Walker-Bradley, Annie - OCFO, Washington, DC <Annie.Walker-Bradley@cfo.usda.gov>; Chapman, Kimberly - OCFO, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Chapman@cfo.usda.gov>; Johnson, Sherri - OCFO, Washington, DC <Sherri.Johnson@cfo.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5) Deliberative

From: BECK, MARRITTA
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Baldus, Lisa (ARS) <lisa.baldus@ars.usda.gov>; 'Williams, Linnette' <Linnette.Williams@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Cc: gao-correspondence <gao-correspondence@oig.usda.gov>; Britt, Mary A - NIFA (NIFA) <mary.a.britt@nifa.usda.gov>; Rice, Susan - NIFA (NIFA) <susan.rice@nifa.usda.gov>; Miller, Maribel - NIFA (NIFA) <maribel.miller@nifa.usda.gov>; Montgomery, Cynthia - NIFA (NIFA) <cmontgomery@nifa.usda.gov>; Baumes, Harry - OCE (OCE) <hbaumes@oce.usda.gov>; Leibtag, Ephraim - ERS (ERS) <eleibtag@ers.usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE (OCE) <rjohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Brooks, Leon - NRCS, Beltsville, MD (NRCS) <leon.brooks@wdc.usda.gov>; Dunn, Michell - NRCS, Beltsville, MD (NRCS) <michell.dunn@wdc.usda.gov>; Fedewa, Tom - NRCS, Beltsville, MD (NRCS) <tom.fedewa@wdc.usda.gov>; Bradley, Robert L - NRCS, Washington, DC (NRCS)

<robert.l.bradley@wdc.usda.gov>; Anandaraman, Neena - OSEC (OSEC)
<neena.anandaraman@osec.usda.gov>; Derksen, Rich - OSEC (OSEC) <rich.derksen@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5) Deliberative

Lead: Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

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Linnette Williams, 301-504-1294, Linnette.williams@ars.usda.gov

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Mike Roberts, (b) (6)

Stephanie Johnson, (b) (6)

D'Ann Beck, (b) (6)

Good morning.

(b) (5) Deliberative

Please provide a copy to your Under Secretary, Agency head, and staff, as appropriate. (b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

but GAO is requesting USDA's comments on the report.

GAO has requested the Department's written or oral comments by October 26, 2018. (b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

(b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

Please also note that in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 718(b) (Public Law 97-258), if comments are not submitted to GAO within the required time frame, GAO can and will issue the final report without them.

Because this draft is subject to revision, its contents should not be released or used for unauthorized purposes, and the draft should be appropriately safeguarded to prevent any premature or unauthorized use.

(b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

cc: Diem-Linh Jones, OBPA
Charlene Buckner, OGC

Thank you,

D'Ann Beck

Management Analyst
Audit Business Operations Division (ABOD)
USDA – OIG
Temple, Texas 76501

(b) (6) work
(b) (6) BB

From: Hockaday, Sonya Y <HockadayS@gao.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2018 1:50 PM
To: PAYNE, ALEXIS <ALEXIS.PAYNE@oig.usda.gov>; Rice, Susan - NIFA (NIFA) <susan.rice@nifa.usda.gov>

Cc: Springer, Karla J <SpringerK@gao.gov>; Hobson, Anne C <HobsonA@gao.gov>; Fried, Ellen <FriedE@gao.gov>

Subject: (b) (5) Deliberative

Hello All,

(b) (5) Deliberative

(b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative

Many thanks,

Sonya Hockaday
Operations Specialist
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office

(b) (6)

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From: [Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Abram, Anna \(Anna.Abram@fda.hhs.gov\)](#)
Cc: [Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: 2030 Food Waste Champions Kickoff (USDA, EPA, FDA)
Date: Thursday, October 4, 2018 10:49:51 AM
Attachments: [new Champions invite formatted.docx](#) Attachment withheld: (b)(5) pre-decisional deliberative
Importance: High

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